

President from 1909. It is to be hoped that his valuable collections of Birds' eggs, Birds, and Insects will find a permanent home there.

Millar made many excursions to Zululand, and further north on the East Coast, hunting and collecting, and his house was stored with the spoils taken on these excursions. We are indebted to Mr. E. C. Chubb, the Curator of the Durban Museum, for some newspapers containing an account of his life. Mr. Chubb also informs me that he hopes to be able to acquire for the Durban Museum, Millar's Collection of Birds' Eggs, which consists of about 2500 eggs forming 617 clutches, 74 of the latter belonging to species of which the eggs are at present undescribed.

Millar's early and premature death is a sad loss to South African Ornithology and Entomology, good field-observers being few and far between in that part of the world.

W. L. S.

XXXII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 573.]

81. '*Annals of Scottish Natural History.*'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. A Quarterly Magazine, with which is incorporated the 'Scottish Naturalist.' April, July, 1911.]

In the first of these numbers the chief interest centres in two species of birds new to the Scottish List, one of which (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*) is also new to Western Europe. It was observed by the Duchess of Bedford on Fair Isle in September 1910, and subsequently secured. The other (*Locustella lanceolata*) has only been recorded twice from Western Europe—in Lincolnshire and on Heligoland; the present example is from the Pentland Skerries.

Mr. R. Clyne reports on the rock-breeding birds of the Butt of Lewis, but has nothing very striking to relate, and Mr. H. B. Watt has four pages of additions and corrections to his

former account of the Scottish Heronries ; while Mr. J. H. Gurney sends a note on Solamosse (Solway) Geese, as distinguished from Sollemgeese (Gannets). Notices of Northern Bullfinches, Mealy Redpolls, and the continental forms of the Willow-Warbler and Great Spotted Woodpecker are of considerable interest ; as are the details of nests of the Snow-Bunting in Aberdeenshire and the Wigeon in Roxburghshire by Mr. Blackwood.

A large part of the July number is devoted to the Report on Scottish Ornithology for 1910 by Misses Rintoul and Baxter, who record the first Scottish examples of the Rock Thrush (Pentland Skerries), the Marsh-Warbler (St. Kilda), the American *Totanus flavipes* (Fair Isle) and *Anthus pennsylvanicus* (St. Kilda), besides the rarer species mentioned in the first paragraph of this notice. *Acanthis exilipes* and *A. holbaelli* were also procured, if these forms are to be regarded as certainly distinguishable, while continental forms of the Robin, Gold-crested Wren, and Great Tit were examined and identified.

A separate report is given by the same two ladies to record the Nightingale from the Isle of May (May 9th, 1911) ; but the same article has also much interesting information on the distribution of birds in the separate faunal areas and notices of such rare species as the Icterine Warbler, Siberian Chiffchaff, and White-spotted Blue-throat. Northern Bullfinches and Hoopoes were unusually abundant. Greenland Falcons occurred in several places, but no reports were received on this occasion of Yellow-browed or Barred Warblers.

82. 'Avicultural Magazine.'

[Avicultural Magazine. Series 3. Vol. ii. Nos. 8-10 (June-Aug. 1911).]

Three more numbers of our contemporary come to be noticed, and we are particularly pleased with the account of the "display" of the Peacock-Pheasant by Mr. R. I. Pocock, which supplements that of Darwin, while shewing a connexion with the displays of the Argus Pheasant and others of the same Family, and a contrast to those of the Peacock and Turkey. The lateral and frontal positions are both figured.

We find also articles by Mr. D. Seth-Smith on the rare Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*, col. pl.), in addition to a continuation of the same author's 'Notes from the Zoological Gardens' and article on Practical Bird-keeping (Parrakeets). The practical keeping of Starlings is discussed by Dr. Butler and that of Hawks and Owls by Mr. Bonhote, who also writes on the Oven-bird and its nest (cuts) in conjunction with Mr. H. D. Astley. Mr. M. J. Nicoll has a paper on Brehm's Hoopoe (cuts), Mr. H. D. Astley writes on the Red-capped Parakeet (col. pl.), and Mr. C. B. Smith on the Rufous-throated Tree-Partridge.

Mr. T. H. Newman gives an account of a second expedition to North-west Africa (Algeria and Tunis) in March and April 1911, and Mr. H. Goodchild discourses on the Water-colour Studies of Bird-life, painted by our fellow-member, Mr. G. E. Lodge, and calls attention to their excellence.

83. *Bartholomew's Zoogeography.*

[Atlas of Zoogeography. A Series of Maps illustrating the Distribution of over Seven Hundred Families, Genera, and Species of existing Animals. Prepared by J. G. Bartholomew, W. Eagle Clarke, and Percy S. Grimshaw, under the Patronage of the Royal Geographical Society. Published at the Edinburgh Institute by John Bartholomew & Co., 1911. One vol., folio, 38 plates.]

Mr. Wallace's great work on the distribution of animal-life over the surface of the globe was published in 1876. Looking at the mass of information that has been accumulated by zoologists on this subject during the last thirty-five years, it was quite time that a new general review of the present state of our knowledge of this important branch of Zoology should be prepared. This has been effected by the publication of the fifth volume of Bartholomew's 'Physical Atlas,' which is entirely devoted to what is quite correctly called "Zoogeography."

It is, of course, the portion of this handsome work assigned to "Birds" that mostly interests us, but, as shown by Mr. Wallace, the Class of Birds is one of the most important factors in the study of Zoological Distribution, as more is known about the exact localities of Birds than is the case with any other Class of animals. Moreover, the

primary division of the world's surface into six Zoological Regions, which was put forward by Sclater in 1857 and was adopted by Wallace after close examination, has been entirely employed in the present work. Of the three authors who are credited with its preparation in the titlepage one is well known to us as a distinguished ornithologist, and it is, no doubt, to his intelligent activity that the laborious process of compiling and getting into proper order this enormous mass of information relating to bird-life of the world has been entrusted.

Besides the discussion of the general facts of Distribution more than twelve pages of double columns are devoted to a summary of the principal facts known concerning the structures and ranges of the numerous "Families" into which the Class of Birds is divided. Then follows an excellent "Bibliography," in which the titles of all the previous works relating to the various branches of Zoogeography are given. Not only separate works are included in this useful catalogue, but also the principal articles on the subject contained in periodicals. As the titles of the works and papers are arranged in geographical sections, this List will greatly help those who wish to ascertain what has already been done as regards Distribution in any particular part of the globe.

Lastly, we come to what is perhaps the most important part of the whole work—that is, the Plates. Not including those of a general character, the plates specially relating to "Birds" are nine in number. It is difficult to say much about them without going into details, which would be impossible on the present occasion. But the plates may be stated to be, on the whole, very satisfactory—certainly far better than anything that has yet been published on this extremely complicated subject. On the whole, ornithologists may be well content with the information on their particular branch of "Zoogeography" collected in the present work, and must thank the enterprising publishers who have brought it out in such first-rate style, as also the authors who have compiled it.

84. *Beetham on the Practical Photography of Birds.*

[Photography for Bird-Lovers. A Practical Guide. By Bentley Beetham. London, 1911. Pp. 1-126, 18 pls.]

This book is a most useful compendium for Ornithologists who use the camera. It presupposes a certain amount of knowledge of photographic technique, but gives full instructions of the methods to be used in approaching birds and in securing their pictures under all circumstances. The nests and their contents are also taken into consideration, and there is an interesting chapter on Rope-work. In fact, all the information that a beginner requires, or an expert needs to recall, is here given in a compact form, accompanied by some excellent specimens of the photographic art. The author tells us that concealment is usually necessary in the case of wild birds, as we should naturally have expected, but he also discusses pictures of captive specimens and dead birds.

85. *A. H. Evans on the Fauna of the Tweed Area.*

[A Vertebrate Fauna of Scotland, edited by J. A. Harvie-Brown. The Tweed Area including the Farne Islands, by A. H. Evans. Edinburgh: David Douglas, 1911. Sm. 4to; pp. i-xxviii, 1-262, 29 illustr. and map.]

With the present volume—the eleventh—the important “Vertebrate Fauna of Scotland” series may be said to have entered its final stage. Hitherto the areas dealt with have all been north of “Forth” and “Clyde,” their *locus* being consequently in the Highlands (or, at any rate, partly so) and the islands beyond. The volume now issued, treating as it does of a district in the Lowlands, and that a “Border” one, has therefore aspects of special interest attaching to it. So-called natural areas do not, as a rule, coincide with political ones, and it need excite no surprise to find a substantial part of Northumberland, on the English side of the Border, included within the purview of this volume, the title of the series notwithstanding. Briefly stated, the Tweed Area, as therein defined, comprises practically the whole of the counties of Berwick, Roxburgh, Selkirk, and Peebles, with

small outlying portions of Haddington and Midlothian in the north, and a goodly slice of Northumberland, with the Farne Islands, in the south. The invasion of English soil is not great, and on a broad view of the matter seems quite justifiable; undoubtedly it gives a finish to the survey, and adds much to its interest. At the same time it is a point that will have to be borne in mind in any comparison of the fauna of South Scotland with other sections of the country.

The author being a native of the district, born and brought up at Scremerston near Berwick-on-Tweed, and, though latterly non-resident, always in close touch with it and its naturalists, and possessing at the same time other essential qualifications for the task, it was but fitting that the Tweed volume should have fallen to the lot of Mr. A. H. Evans. That the result is one of the best "Faunas" of the series goes without saying. A feature is the exhaustive manner in which the voluminous literature has evidently been ransacked, and the careful citation of the records. Certainly Mr. Evans's fellow-workers in the district have no cause to complain of his treatment of them. But while generously fair in his recognition of the work of others, it is a question whether by the studied avoidance of the first personal pronoun he has been equally fair to himself.

Following an Introduction of fourteen pages, in which short biographical notices of deceased Border naturalists and a Bibliography—which, by the way, does not include the author's own paper on the Birds of the Melrose District, published in the 'Scottish Naturalist' for 1891—are given, there comes a clear and orderly description, in twenty-five pages, of the "physical features" of the area, section by section, from the faunistic point of view. The district, it may here be remarked, is regarded as occupying a distinctly intermediate faunal position between the North and the South of Great Britain. From this chapter we pass to the main part of the book, namely, the systematic account of the Vertebrates (excluding the Fishes) that have been recorded from the area. The Class Aves, with which alone we are here concerned, is

represented by 255 species (exclusive of a few "doubtfuls" in square brackets), the known facts concerning each as a member of the local avifauna being well stated in the usual short articles allowed for in the plan of the series. In addition to the strictly local records, the author has not hesitated to refer to occurrences beyond the prescribed limits when it was thought that light was thereby thrown on the species as a "Tweed" bird. As examples of the application of this broadening of the outlook, the articles on the Waxwing, Pied Flycatcher, and Stock-Dove may be cited. The Wood-Sandpiper, we are told, is a "rare summer visitor, which arrives early in May and leaves in August or September," surely too high an estimate of its status, at the present day at any rate*. With regard to the Classification and Nomenclature of the Birds, Mr. Evans has not thought it wise to alter them from those used in previous volumes of the series, a course which, though departed from in the case of the Mammals, may in the circumstances be expected to commend itself to all but a few extremists. One alteration, however, has crept in: for *Parus palustris* has been substituted *Parus dresseri*, a doubtful improvement, seeing that the only form of "Marsh" Tit proved to occur in the area is stated to be the so-called British Willow-Tit. It does not appear that the lighthouses on St. Abb's Head and the Farne Islands have yet been utilised to any great extent in the detection of rare Passeres on migration; when they are, some interesting additions to the local list may be anticipated.

The volume, like its predecessors, is handsomely got up and illustrated, though in the matter of reproduction some of the plates are perhaps a little disappointing. In the choice of localities for illustration the chief consideration has rightly been their connexion past or present with interesting species. A wide range of subjects is thus depicted. Peeblesshire, however, is unrepresented.

* [Mr. W. Evans desires it to be made known that the statement in the footnote on p. 210 of the "Tweed" vol. regarding the Wood-Sandpiper has been attributed to him through some misunderstanding.—EDD.]

86. *W. Evans on the Mealy Redpolls.*

[Notes on the recent Immigration of Mealy Redpolls (*Acanthis linaria*), including the Form known as Holböll's Redpoll. By W. Evans. Proc. Roy. Phys. Soc. Edinb. xviii. pp. 196-203, and reprint.]

The author here records former immigrations of the Mealy Redpoll, and gives full details of that of 1910, perhaps the greatest ever known. He doubts whether Holböll's Redpoll is worthy of even subspecific rank, as the measurements of bill and wing vary to a great extent, and those who uphold it as a subspecies rely on its larger size, and especially on the size of the bill. Many measurements are given, which would shew that a large number of the birds captured in Scotland would come under the form *holboelli*, if it is accepted. One of the largest examples, taken near Dunbar, was so named by Dr. Hartert.

87. *Faxon on Brewster's Warbler.*

[Brewster's Warbler. By Walter Faxon. Mem. Mus. Comp. Zool. vol. xii. No. 2. Cambridge, U.S.A., 1911.]

This instructive memoir discusses, at full length, the singular case of Brewster's Warbler—a most distinct bird in general appearance, but allied in some mysterious way to two other species, *Helminthophila pinus* and *H. chrysoptera*. After relating his personal experiences with this curious creature, Mr. Faxon gives us an account of the very conflicting opinions on it that have been held by the American naturalists. Some say that it is a good species, others that it is a hybrid. Mr. Faxon "sees no objection" to the hypothesis that it is a hybrid between the two species above named.

88. *Gyldenstolpe on Birds from Russian Turkestan.*

[Short Notes on a Collection of Birds from Russian Turkestan. By Nils Gyldenstolpe. Arch. f. Zool., Band 7, No. 14. Upsala, 1911.]

The author describes and gives notes on a small collection of birds from the Semirjetschensk district of Russian Turkestan. The species are mostly typical Central Asiatic, but there are also some widely spread Palæartic species and a few migratory forms from the south. There are 69 forms

represented—mostly provided with three names and the authority, which makes four names in all. This is an interesting paper for students of the Palæarctic Ornis, as almost the only previous information on the subject was Dr. Schalow's essay on the birds procured by Merzbacher in the district of Thian-Shan (see 'Ibis,' 1909, p. 181). Rarer species enumerated are *Nucifraga caryocatactes rothschildi*, *Acanthis cannabina merzbacheri*, and *Ibidorhynchus struthersi*.

89. *Hamilton's List of the Birds of New Zealand.*

[Hand-list of the Birds inhabiting New Zealand, and those from other Countries that have been observed in New Zealand as Occasional Visitors. Dominion Museum, Wellington, 1909; 19 pp.]

Buller's supplement to his 'Birds of New Zealand' was published in 1905. Since then no full list of the Birds of New Zealand and its adjacent islands has been issued. In the present List, prepared by Mr. A. Hamilton, the Director of the Dominion Museum at Wellington, the scientific and vernacular names of the species known to the author as having occurred in New Zealand are given, classified and arranged according to Sharpe's 'Hand-list.' They are 257 in number. Appended are the names of the birds obtained by Lord Ranfurly from the Cook Islands and Nice or Savage Island; also a list of the introduced species.

90. 'Irish Naturalist.'

[The Irish Naturalist. Vol. xix. Nos. 9-12; Vol. xx. Nos. 1-8; Dublin. (Sept. 1910-Aug. 1911).]

In vol. xix. No. 9, we have an account of the sixth Conference of the Irish Field Club Union, at Rosapenna in Donegal, in which Mr. R. J. Ussher writes on the birds, and reports that five humeri of the Great Auk were found, in addition to those originally discovered there (pl. 10). In No. 10, Mr. A. Williams records many Sanderlings from Dublin Bay and elsewhere, observed during the month of July in various years. In Nos. 11, 12, Mr. R. M. Barrington gives details of the second and third examples of the Red-backed Shrike known to have occurred in Ireland,

and of the first Shore-Lark. In vol. xx. No. 1, we have a report from the same pen of the abundance of Black Redstarts on migration in 1910, and a notice of an American Blue-winged Teal shot in County Cork (which may have been an escaped bird) by Mr. A. R. Nicols. In No. 3 the last-named discusses the Irish forms of the Dipper, Jay, and Coal Titmouse, which have been recently distinguished from the typical species, and in No. 4 Mr. Barrington writes on the third of these forms. In No. 5 Mr. W. J. Williams records the first Nuthatch for Ireland (commented on by Mr. C. B. Moffat on p. 115), and in No. 6 Mr. Barrington has a very important article (with a map) on the Great rush of Birds on the night of March 29th-30th in Ireland. In No. 7 Miss Dobbs and Mr. Moffat write on "Luminous Birds" and, finally, in No. 8 Mr. Ussher tells us that he has discovered a breeding colony of the Fulmar Petrel on the west coast of Ireland (in Mayo). Of this discovery details are given in No. 9, where a second locality for Ireland is also mentioned, and extra notes are added by Mr. Barrington.

91. *Kloss on Malayan Birds.*

A recently issued number of the 'Journal of the Federated Malay States Museums' (vol. iv. no. 2) contains two short papers relating to Birds by Mr. C. Boden Kloss, the Curator of the Perak State Museum. In the first of these a list is given of the birds of the "district of Trengganu," which is stated to have "received very little attention from zoologists." Seventy-nine species are named, besides others "observed." In the second paper, the Mammals and Birds of the low lands of the State of Pahang are enumerated—the species of birds are 135. Two specimens of the rare Banded Kingfisher (*Alcedo euryzona*) are the first that have been taken in the Federated Malay States for many years, while the unstable state of *Mesobucco duvauceli*, the commonness of *Munia leucogastra*, and the fact that *Setaria affinis* occurs in an area where another closely allied form was thought to have replaced it, are other pieces of news that call for comment.

92. *Madarász on new Birds from Africa.*

[Neue Vögel aus Afrika, beschrieben von Dr. J. v. Madarász. Ann. Mus. Nat. Hungar., 1911.]

The new species described are *Upupa butleri*, *Riparia nigricans*, *Cisticola sudanica*, *Passer alexandrinus*, *P. niker-soni*, and *P. albiventris*. It is certainly curious to discover a new Sparrow at Alexandria, especially if, as is stated, *Passer domesticus* also occurs in the same district.

93. *Madarász on Two Humming-birds.*

[Ueber *Thalurania venusta* (Gould) und *Colibri cabanidis* (Heine) als selbständige Formen. Von Dr. J. v. Madarász. Ann. Mus. Nat. Hungar., 1911.]

The author is of opinion that *Thalurania venusta* (Gould) of Central America has been incorrectly united to *T. columbica* (Bourc.) of Colombia and Venezuela, and that the two species are quite distinct. He also maintains that *Colibri cabanidis* of Costa Rica ought not to be united with *C. cyanotis* of Colombia and Venezuela.

94. *Mathews on Alterations in the Nomenclature of Birds.*

[On some necessary Alterations in the Nomenclature of Birds, Part II. By Gregory M. Mathews, Nov. Zool. xvii. p. 503.]

This is a continuation and completion of the author's previous article on the same subject, which we have already noticed (above, p. 392); it contains large additions to the list of proposed changes in the nomenclature of birds. Mr. Mathews gives us no less than 22 pages of them and the explanatory remarks. It seems to us to be a mistake to insist on these changes unless the retention of the generally adopted names is likely to cause confusion.

Mr. Mathews is ready to adopt "Brisson's" names, but rejects those of "Gronow," while he gives some important information with regard to the dates of certain works of Lesson, Swainson, Cuvier, and Vieillot.

The following new generic terms are proposed by Mr. Mathews:—

Irediparra to replace *Hydralector* of Wagler, which is, according to Mr. Mathews's views, an "absolute synonym of *Metopidius*."

Eutelipsitta, to replace *Psitteuteles*, which is stated to be equivalent to *Ptilosclera*.

Alisterus, to replace *Aprosmictus* of Gould, 1842, which is considered to be properly equivalent to *Ptistes*.

Grantiella, to replace *Entomophila* of Gould, preoccupied by Horsfield (1824). After considerable debate *Rallina* is reinstated for *Euryzona*.

The new specific name *ceciliae* is proposed for *Platycercus splendidus* Gould (1845), nec Shaw (1792); *Psephotus multicolor* (Kuhl, nec Gmelin) is to be called *P. dulciei*; and *Corvus australis* Gould is to be changed to *C. marianæ*, not being the same as *C. australis* of preceding authors.

Finally, Mr. Mathews wishes to shift the familiar name *Saxicola* from the Wheatears to the Chats, and to call the Wheatears *Ænanthe*. To this proposal we most decidedly object, as it would cause endless confusion, and is, in our opinion, quite unnecessary. We cannot agree with Mr. Mathews's reasoning on this subject. *Motacilla ænanthe* was one of the three birds included in his genus *Saxicola* by Bechstein in 1802, and that name has been almost universally applied to the Wheatears ever since that period.

95. Mathews on the Birds of Australia.

[The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. i. pt. 4. London, 1911. 4to, pp. 185-234, pls. 46-58.]

The fourth part of this work contains the continuation of the Family Rallidæ, with the genera *Rallus*, *Eulabeornis*, *Crex*, *Porzana*, *Tribonyx*, and *Gallinula* (pt.). The habits of Rails are comparatively little known, and therefore we heartily welcome the excellent notes which we find here, especially those on *Rallus pectoralis*, the two interesting species

of *Tribonyx*, and *Eulabeornis castaneiventris*. The full life-history of the last of these species is now brought to light by Mr. J. P. Rogers, collecting for Mr. Mathews.

The author draws attention to the fact that *Rallus featherstoni* of Buller from New Zealand was at once pronounced by Hutton to be the British Land-Rail, and that a specimen has since been procured in Australia; he has also unearthed Temminck's original description of *Rallus pectoralis*, which specific name takes precedence of *R. brachypus* of Swainson. Neither of these facts appears in the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum' (vol. xxiii.). Moreover, the discovery that the form from Western Australia should be separated as *R. p. clelandi* has led Mr. Mathews to the conclusion that the bird should be placed in the genus *Rallus* and not *Hypotaenidia*. This has necessitated the cancelling of pp. 183-4.

The genera *Poliolimnas* and *Microtribonyx* of Sharpe are given up, while *Amauornis* is no longer separated from *Gallinula*—all decided changes for the better, as the characteristics are not truly generic.

Eulabeornis (Hypotaenidia) philippensis is now divided into no less than twelve subspecies, of which seven are new; other new subspecies proposed by Mr. Mathews are *E. tricolor robinsoni* and *E. tricolor grayi*, while *Porzana palustris* and *P. plumbea* are to stand as *P. pusilla palustris* and *P. plumbea immaculata*. Reference should also be made to the preceding Notice (*Ibis*, 1911, p. 570).

96. Mathews on Two new Australian Birds.

[Two new Australian Birds. By Gregory M. Mathews. *Nov. Zool.* xviii. p. 22.]

The new birds described are subspecies, *Geryone albigularis rogersi* from Derby, N.W. Australia, and *Alisterus cyanopygius minor* from Cairns, North Queensland. The eggs of the former and of *Poëphila personata belcheri* are described.

97. *Mearns on Ten new African Birds.*

[Descriptions of Ten new African Birds. By Edgar A. Mearns, U.S. Nat. Mus. Smiths. Miscell. Collect. vol lvi. No. 14. Washington, U.S.A., 1911.]

The following species and subspecies of Birds are described as part of the results of the "Smithsonian African Expedition under the Direction of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt." We have already noticed Col. Roosevelt's interesting narrative of his expedition (see above, p. 394), and are glad to find that it has been so successful as regards birds, although its principal object, we believe, was to obtain specimens of the larger Mammals of Africa before their approaching extermination.

The species and subspecies of birds now described as new are *Francolinus schuetti maranensis* (Kilimanjaro); *F. s. kapitensis* (Athi plains); *F. s. keniensis* (Mt. Kenia); *Nectarinia johnstoni idia* (Mt. Kenia); *Cinnyris mediocris keniensis* (Mt. Kenia); *Cyanomitra changamwensis* (Mombasa); *Anthreptes collaris clachior* (near Mombasa); *Pseudonigrita arnaudi kapitensis* (Kapiti Plains); *Lagonosticta incerta* (Gondokoro, White Nile); *Sporopipes frontalis abyssinicus* (Abyssinia).

We think that it would have been better to have sent Dr. Mearns to the British Museum to examine the specimens there before describing these supposed novelties.

98. *Mearns on Fifteen new African Birds.*

[Descriptions of Fifteen new African Birds. By Edgar A. Mearns, U.S. Nat. Mus. Smiths. Miscell. Collect. vol. lvi. No. 20. Washington, U.S.A., 1911.]

Ten of the forms described in the present paper are products of Col. Roosevelt's expedition to East Africa. The species and subspecies now described are *Pternistes leucoscepus keniensis*; *P. l. kilimensis*; *Francolinus griseescens* (Uganda); *F. granti delutescens* (Kenia); *F. schuetti zappeyi* (East coast of Lake Victoria); *Ptilopachus fuscus keniensis* (Kenia); *Turnix sylvatica alleni* (Kenia); *Xanthophilus bojeri alleni* (coast of B.E.A.); *Uraginthus bengalus brunneogularis* (N.W. of Kenia); *Pycnonotus layardi fayi* (B.E.A.); *P. l.*

peasei (Kapiti Plains); *P. l. phæcephalus* (Uganda); *Pogonocichla cucullata keniensis*; *Eminia lepida hypochlora* (B.E.A.); *Sylvietta whytii loringi* (Fort Hall, B.E.A.).

We may remark that the results arrived at by Mr. F. J. Jackson, who has lately studied the Francolins of B.E. Africa and Uganda (see above, p. 569), do not seem to coincide with those of Dr. Mearns.

99. *Oberholser on the Forms of the Ladder-backed Woodpecker.*

[A Revision of the Forms of the Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Dryobates scalaris*). By H. C. Oberholser. Pr. U.S. Nat. Mus. xli. p. 139 (1911).]

Having compared a large series of specimens from various American Museums, Mr. Oberholser divides the Woodpeckers of the genus *Dryobates* allied to *D. scalaris* into subspecies. The six generally recognised forms of this group are thus increased to fifteen, and nine are described as "new subspecies." An outline map illustrates the distribution of the group from Texas to Honduras.

100. *Pycraft on the Skeleton of Palæocorax.*

[On the Skeleton of *Palæocorax moriorum*. By W. P. Pycraft, M.B.O.U. Nov. Zool. xviii. p. 122.]

Remains of this extinct bird were discovered by Dr. H. O. Forbes in Chatham Island (see 'Nature,' xli. p. 252). Mr. Pycraft gives us an excellent description of its bones, accompanied by a figure of its cranium. Though the skull agrees very closely with that of the Raven (*Corvus corax*) it differs from it in one or two noteworthy particulars. Mr. Pycraft is doubtful whether this form ought to be considered as generically distinct from *Corvus*, but is certain that it has no generic connection with *Gymnorhina*.

101. *Reichenow on Birds from Spanish Guinea.*

[Ueber eine Vogelsammlung vom Rio Benito im Spanischen Guinea. Von Anton Reichenow. Mitth. Zool. Mus. in Berlin, Band v. Heft 1. Berlin, 1910.]

From the territory called "Spanish Guinea," south of the

German Colony of Cameroon, Herr Tessman, of Lubeck, brought back in 1909 a collection of birds which contains examples of 194 species. The forms, as might have been expected, are mostly those of Cameroon, but five are regarded as new by Dr. Reichenow, and are named *Theristicus brevirostris*, *Aplopelia* (scr. *Haplopelia*) *tessmanni*, *Psalidoprocne tessmanni*, *Pedilorchynchus tessmanni*, and *Bradornis sylvia*. The types have been placed in the Berlin Museum.

102. *Reichenow on the Birds of Cameroon.*

[Die ornithologischen Sammlungen der Zoologisch-Botanischen Kamerun-Expedition, 1908 und 1909. Mit einer Uebersicht aller bis jetzt aus Kamerun bekannten Vogelarten. Von Ant. Reichenow. Mittheil. Zool. Mus. Berlin, Band v. Heft 2. 1911.]

In the years 1908-9, the Imperial Colonial Office of Germany sent out a Zoological and Botanical Expedition to the Protectorate of Cameroon on the western coast of Africa. The collectors were Herr Riggensbach and Herr Hauptmann Strümpell, who brought back about 1000 bird-skins. These are referred by Dr. Reichenow to 305 species, of which 34, new to science, have been already characterized by Dr. Reichenow in the 'Ornithologische Monatsberichte.'

A list is now given of the species and the exact localities in which they were obtained, with a few notes. The localities are further indicated by an outline map, which gives the routes followed by the expedition.

Appended is a list of all the species of birds that are as yet known to occur in the Protectorate of Cameroon, with their localities, altogether 670 in number.

103. *Reichenow on the Birds of the Mid-African Lake District.*

[Die Vogelfauna des Mittelafricanischen Seengebietes. Auf Grund der Sammlungen Seiner Hoheit des Herzogs Adolf Friedrich zu Mecklenburg bearbeitet von Prof. Dr. Anton Reichenow. Berlin, 1911.]

We have already called attention ('Ibis,' 1908, p. 199) to the large and important collections of Natural History made by the Duke Adolf Frederick of Mecklenburg and

his assistants during his hunting and scientific Expedition to Central Africa in 1897-8. The results are now being gradually worked out by different savants, and the birds have been naturally assigned to Dr. Reichenow, who has kindly furnished us with a copy of his report on this subject. To make his memoir more complete, Dr. Reichenow has included in it notices of other recent work in the same district of Africa, which he calls the "Mid-African Lake-district," and of which he gives us a useful outline-map.

The Mid-African Lake-district, he tells us, is specially rich in bird-life. At present we know of 750 species from this country—that is, about one-fourth of all the known species of the Ethiopian Region, which is estimated to contain about 3000 species. This richness in species comes from the central position of the Province. West Africa supplies the greater portion of them, as out of 750 species about 130 may be classed as West-African forms. Typical East-African forms are about 100 in number, and 70 extend over East and South Africa, while about 100 of them are generally spread over the whole Ethiopian Region. The European-Asiatic migrants that are known to occur in the Lake-district are about 50 in number.

The author proceeds to record the species of the Lake-district according to the nomenclature and arrangement of his 'Vögel-Afrikas,' and adds many good notes. Coloured figures are given of *Scoptelus adolphi-frederici*, *Malaconotus adolphi-frederici*, *Cinnyris schubotzi*, *Pyromelana leuconota*, and *Bradypterus milbreadi*.

104. *Snethlage on the Avifauna of the Amazonian Campos.*

[Sobre a distribuição da Avifauna campestre na Amazonia. Por E. Snethlage. Bull. Mus. Goeldi, vi. p. 226 (1910).]

This is an interesting essay to those who are studying geographical distribution. The author, who is one of the officials of the Museum Goeldi at Para, and is very well acquainted with the birds of Lower Amazonia, shews, or attempts to shew, that the birds of the *campos* of that district (that is, of the treeless spaces, surrounded by forest,

which are frequently found there) are quite different from the birds of the adjoining forest, and belong to genera, and, in many cases, even to species, which are of wide distribution in other parts of the South-American continent. Madame Sneath gives a list of more than forty species belonging to the Avifauna of the campos of Amazonia in which this is the case.

105. *Winge on the Birds captured at the Danish Lighthouses.*

[Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1910. 28de Aarsbiretning om danske Fugle. Ved Herluf Winge. Vid. Meddel. fr. d. naturh. Foren. i Kobenhavn, 1911.]

Dr. Winge sends us a copy of the 28th report on the birds taken or observed on the Danish Lighthouses in 1910 *. Thirty-one of the Lighthouses sent their specimens to the Zoological Museum at Copenhagen. These were altogether 1307 in number, and are referred by Dr. Winge to 77 species, of which a list is given. The Sky-Lark (*Alauda arvensis*) and the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) appear to have been among the most numerous victims, though the Song-Thrush (*Turdus musicus*) and Redwing (*T. iliacus*) were likewise abundant, as in former years. Of Robins (*Erithacus rubecula*) 62 were sent in, but more were captured. Numerous notes about the various localities, a separate account of the birds met with at each Lighthouse, and the dates of their occurrences are given. Only one *Muscicapa grisola* was met with, while 66 examples of *M. atricapilla* were registered—the latter, we believe, being by far the commoner species in Scandinavia.

We venture to suggest to the Migration Committee of the B.O.U. that a somewhat similar report on the occurrences of the nocturnal visitors to St. Catherine's Lighthouse in the Isle of Wight might be of interest.

* See above, p. 182, for a notice of the last Report.